



Coalition to Author State's First Adolescent Health Plan

In October of 2006, the Indiana State Department of Health brought together individuals and representatives from organizations (e.g. schools, healthcare industry, youth-serving organizations, etc.) across the state who have an interest in adolescent health. Participants in this meeting provided a resounding need to establish a coalition to focus solely on the adolescent and emerging adult population. These participants were eager and willing to work collaboratively to improve the health of Hoosier adolescents, and thus the Indiana Coalition to Improve Adolescent Health emerged.

The mission of the Indiana Coalition to Improve Adolescent Health is to empower adolescents (ages 10-24) to choose lifestyle behaviors to improve their quality of life and to address their unique health needs.

The goals of the coalition are to:

1. increase awareness that adolescents are among Indiana's most valuable asset;
2. increase awareness of the health issues affecting adolescents;
3. ensure Indiana is a healthy place for adolescents to grow and develop; and
4. develop, promote, evaluate, and revise (as necessary) the state adolescent health plan in order to achieve the coalition's mission.

The coalition is currently focused on tasks related to authoring the first strategic state plan on adolescent health in Indiana, which will address issues related to access to care, prevention, and youth development.

The coalition launched its website in August and can be viewed at www.INadolescenthealth.org.